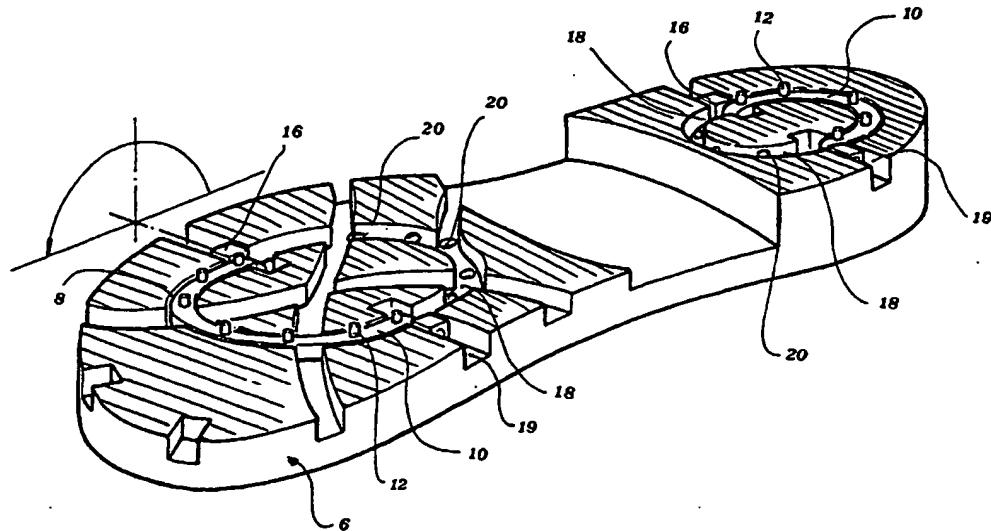




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| (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BIANCUCCI, Demetrio [IT/IT]; Via Dante Alighieri, 215, I-62012 Civitanova Marche (IT). BRASCA, Alfredo [IT/IT]; Via Civitanova, 79, I-62012 Civitanova Marche (IT). | | With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments. | |
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(54) Title: SHOE SOLE PROVIDED WITH SPIKES OR HOBNAILED MEANS



(57) Abstract

A shoe sole (6) provided with a number of rigid spikes or nails (12) on its face in contact with the ground, said spikes or nails being not fixedly secured to the sole but being able to pass from a first extracted position in contact with the ground to a second retracted position not interfering with the trampling surface because of the combination of folding spike support means which can be overturned with first and second grooves or recesses (20) formed in the sole within which such spike support means can be accommodated in the extracted and the rest positions.

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Shoe sole provided with spikes or hobnailed means

The present invention relates to the footwear-industry and, more specifically, the manufacturing of shoe soles provided for the use in cold countries and mountain-lands where ice and snow are steady.

5 Under such circumstances, it is well known how hard is for everyone to keep on one's feet. Resort to the so-called hobnailed shoes, that are technical, sturdy shoes having a right weight, may be made to avoid slipping. However, the use of such shoes is not
10 compatible with the use of everyday shoes.

To avoid resorting to hobnailed shoes, sealskins or the like were once applied under the shoes to prevent the sole from contacting the frozen ground. Based on the same principle are rubber sheathes applied in a
15 removable way to the shoes and carrying a number of nails or spikes on the face in contact with the ground.

Such a solution, however, has the serious drawback that the user must remove the sheathes away from the
20 shoes whenever he goes into a residence or leaves the road to enter a building in order to avoid that the nails or spikes damage the floor. It is self-evident that the operation itself is troublesome and also implies the need for the user to carry the sheathes on
25 him until he shall put on them again.

The present invention seeks to overcome the above-mentioned problems by providing a shoe sole having a number of rigid spikes or nails on its face in contact with the ground. Such spikes or nails are not fixedly secured to the sole but can pass from an extracted position in contact with the ground to a retracted position not interfering with the trampling surface because of the combination between folding spike support means which can be overturned and grooves or recesses formed in the sole within which such spike support means can be accommodated.

In a preferred embodiment this is achieved by providing spikes or nails fixedly secured to the face of the support means directed to the ground, such support means being formed of folded small bars shaped as brackets, arches or having any other geometrical shape, all of them being received within grooves or recesses formed in the thickness of the sole, as well as by also providing support means hinged at its one end and adapted to be overturned by 180° into corresponding grooves which are mirror-like symmetrical to the preceding grooves.

In the first position the spikes or nails project from the sole by a length enough to grip the ground. In the second, or rest position, the spikes or nails projecting from the small bars are accommodated in suitable recesses formed at the bottom of the grooves accommodating the small bars so that the lower surface of the shoe sole becomes flat without any projection.

Further features and advantages of the invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings which show some preferred embodiments of the invention only by way of a not limiting example.

5 In the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of the face of a shoe sole according to the invention which is in contact with the ground and is provided with spikes or nails 10 projecting from two small arches accommodated in grooves formed in the thickness of the sole both at the tip and the heel;

15 Fig. 2 is the same view as Fig. 1 where the two supports of the spikes are overturned by 180° to bring the spikes within the sole;

20 Figs. 3, 4 and 5 show different embodiments of the supports of the spikes.

With reference to Fig. 1, anti-slipping sole 6 provided with spikes according to the invention has a plurality of grooves 8 formed in the face of the sole in contact with the ground and capable of receiving small bars 10 with a suitable clearance, such small bars having any shape, for example, a circular arch. The small bars are preferably made of semirigid plastic material and carry a plurality of nails or

spikes 12 embedded by moulding therein and arranged all over their length.

Such small arch-shaped bars 10 are provided at both ends with two rotation pins which are snap-fitted into respective rotation sockets 16. Such sockets 16 are formed by rigid cubic blocks provided with a hinge hole and rigidly secured to a grooves 19 of the sole placed along the overturning axis of the small arch-shaped bar.

10 A second groove 18 is located in a mirror-like position with respect to the first groove 8 and differs from the same only because its bottom has recesses 20 for receiving the corresponding spikes 12 of the small arch-shaped bar 10 upon its overturning.

15 With regard to the foregoing the functional capacity of the anti-slipping device of the present invention should be appreciated. The user just needs to overturn the arch-shaped support bars to pass from a smooth sole to be used inside the buildings to a hobnailed sole to be used on slipping surfaces.

20
25 A preferred embodiment of the invention has been described above. It is self-evident, however, that a number of modifications and changes can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims. For example, instead of being hinged within the groove, the supports of nails and spikes can be snap-fitted so as to be removed and applied

again rotated by 180° to make the face provided with nails or the smooth face alternately visible.

Claims

1. An anti-slipping shoe sole, characterized by having a number of rigid spikes or nails on its face in contact with the ground, said spikes or nails being not fixedly secured to the sole but being able to pass from a first extracted position in contact with the ground to a second retracted position not interfering with the trampling surface because of the combination between folding spike support means which can be overturned and first and second grooves or recesses formed in the sole within which such spike support means can be accommodated in both positions.
10
2. The anti-slipping shoe sole of claim 1, characterized in that the spikes or nails are fixedly secured to the face of the support means directed to the ground, such support means being formed of folded small bars shaped as brackets, arches or having any other geometrical shape, all of them being received within grooves or recesses formed in the thickness of
15 the sole.
20
3. The anti-slipping shoe sole of the preceding claims, characterized in that said support means are hinged at its one end into said grooves and/or recesses to be overturned by 180°, corresponding grooves which are mirror-like symmetrical to the preceding grooves being provided in the sole.
25

4. The anti-slipping shoe sole of the preceding claims, characterized in that the spikes or nails project from the sole in the first position by a length enough to grip the ground.

5

5. The anti-slipping shoe sole of the preceding claims, characterized in that in the second retracted or rest position the spikes or nails projecting from the small bars are accommodated in suitable recesses 10 formed at the bottom of the grooves accommodating the small bars so that the lower surface of the shoe sole becomes flat without any projection.

15

6. The anti-slipping shoe sole of the preceding claims, characterized in that instead of being hinged within the groove at their ends, said supports can be snap-fitted into the grooves corresponding to the first and second positions after having been removed and overturned by the user.

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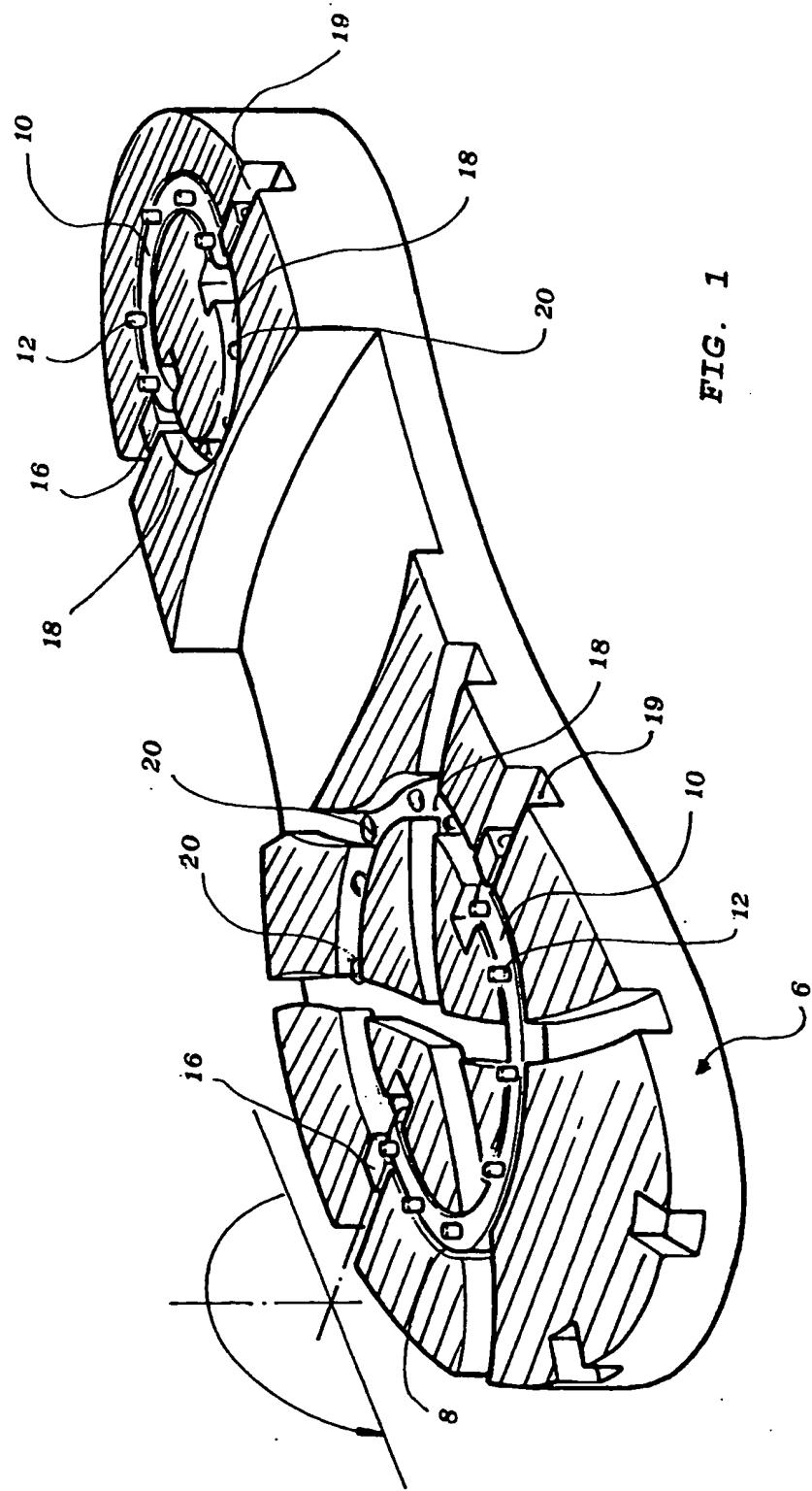
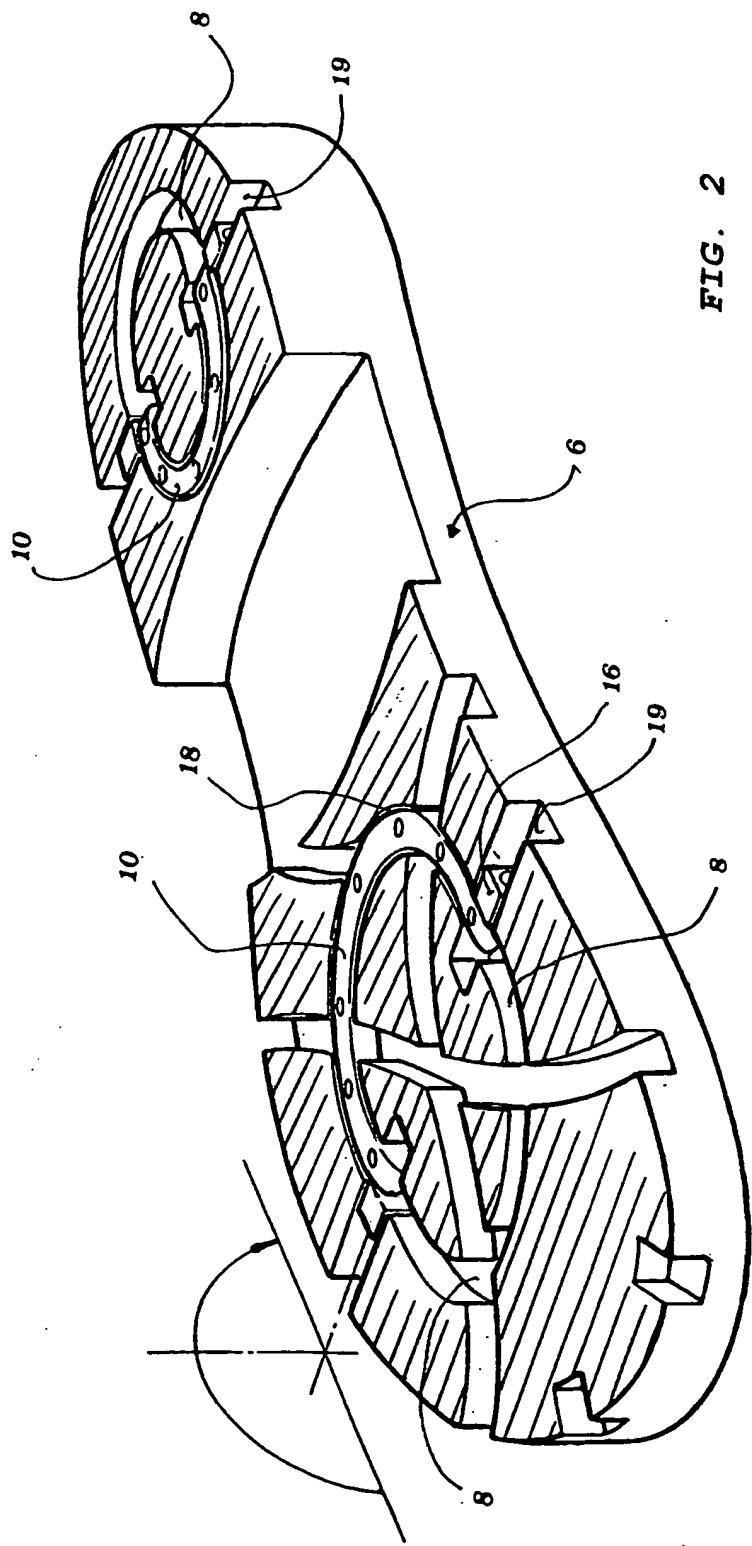


FIG. 1

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3/3

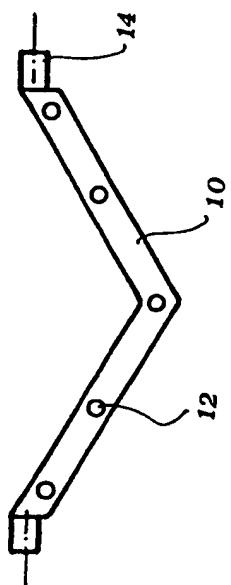


FIG. 3

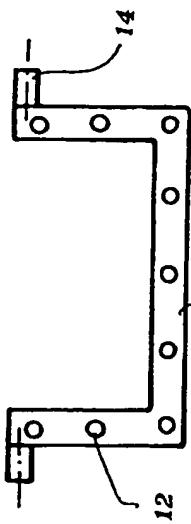


FIG. 4

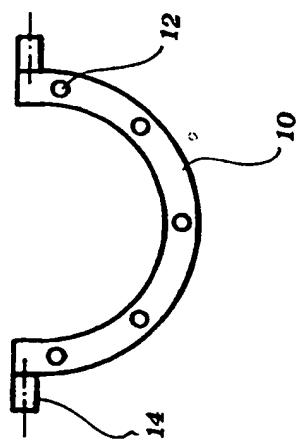


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A43C15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A43C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | DATABASE WPI Section PQ, Week 9742 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class P22, AN 1997-455739 XP002123726 & RU 2 075 303 A (NOVOGRUDSKIY ARKADIY NIKOLAEVI), 20 March 1997 (1997-03-20) | 1,2,4,5 |
| A | abstract; figures --- | 3 |
| X | US 5 269 080 A (DAVIS CARL C) 14 December 1993 (1993-12-14) claim 1; figures --- | 1,2,4,5 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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